

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough search and examination of the present patent application.

Claims 1-7 have been amended and claims 10-16 have been added to define applicants' invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Skopp et al. (U.S. Patent Application 6,256,739). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants' claim 1 is directed to controlling the amount of time a user spends connected to a communication network. For example, using the process of claim 1 is intended to prevent various known traumatic consequences of prolonged use, such as epileptic conditions or catalepsy (see page 1, lines 24-26 applicant's specification), or boredom, consternation, etc. More particularly, once a user is associated with a particular age group and an amount of time is calculated to determine the user's connection time, claim 1 defines interrupting the user's connection in case the calculated connection time exceeds an appropriate amount of time for the user's age group.

Applicants respectfully submit that Skopp does not teach or suggest the features defined in applicants' claim 1. Skopp describes a system that allows the vision of certain advertisement banners on the client's browser with certain limitations. In connection with this aim, Skopp identifies, at col. 3, lines 35-37, the technical problem that "[t]o limit the cost of providing free access, an advertiser might want to limit access to advertisement Web pages to a limited period of time." Accordingly, Skopp employs the use of access control proxy 310 to limit access to certain web sites or pages. Skopp also identifies time as a limiting parameter and states, "[t]he amount of time, or 'duration,' a user can stay at any one site, or group of sites, is another type of restriction that may be imposed. A user could be allocated, for example, a fixed period of time for the user's lifetime, or for each browsing session." See Skopp, col. 7, lines 28-32.

The Examiner cites to col. 7, lines 25-35 of Skopp which relates to "a user [who] could be allocated a maximum of ten minutes for each advertisement in the advertisement index." User age is not alluded to in Skopp and, therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the time

allocation in Skopp is patentably distinct from applicants' claim 1, which defines the step of determining a user's age group. Moreover, applicant's claim 1 includes "calculating a user's connection time" to a communication network, and is patentably distinct from the teachings of Skopp which limit access to a particular Internet site. Further, applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's conclusion that "appropriate connection times" which are defined in applicants' claim 1 according to different age groups, and referenced in order to limit a user's connection time to a communication network, are inherent in Skopp. Applicants respectfully submit that Skopp does not teach or suggest applicants' claim 1 steps of associating a user with an age group, calculating a user's connection time to a communication network, and automatically interrupting the user's connection in case the user's connection time exceeds the appropriate connection time for the user's age group.

Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is allowable over Skopp.

Independent claim 8 includes similar features and limitations and, for the same reasons, applicants submit claim 8 is allowable over Skopp.

Claims 2, 5-7 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for the same reasons, as well as because of the combination of features in those claims with the features set forth in the claim(s) from which they depend.

Claims 3, 4 and 9 stand objected to as they depend upon rejected claims. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3 and 4 depend indirectly from claim 1 and are, therefore, patentable for the same reasons.

Similarly, claim 9 depends directly from claim 8 and is patentable for the same reasons.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that

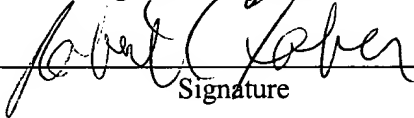
the claims remaining in the application are allowable and their allowance is requested.

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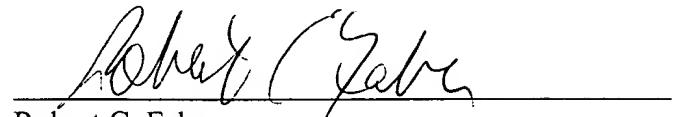

Signature

March 23, 2005

Date of Signature

RCF:JJF:ck

Respectfully submitted,



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